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REIKO MOMOCHI PRESENTS

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KC Dessert

My Life

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Momochi Reiko

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Gotouda Manabu

The criminal who raped and killed Kotori. After he was declared innocent his whereabouts have been unknown

Yuuwa

Nobara's ex-boyfriend. He continues to love Nobara who is living as Koton

Nobara (The Younger Twin)

The younger sister whose only distinction from her twin is whether she is wearing glasses or not. Since her father's accidental death she lived under the care of her grandmother. Then while she and Kotori switched places, Koton was horribly murdered. Feeling responsible she deceived the people around her and chose to live as her sister Kotori

Himeno

Nobara's previous best-friend. She is dating Murase

Murase Manabu

Himeno's boyfriend. He lives at the address listed on Gotouda's license. He cooperates with the search for Gotouda however

Grandmother

Natsuko's mother. After Kotori's death, she is the spiritual and emotional support of the family

Mother (Natsuko)

With Koton's death her heart became ill and she attempted suicide. Her memory is cloudy

Father (Manato)

He lost his life when he saved Grade 6 primary school student Nobara from drowning in a river

Kotori (The Older Twin)

During her first year of high school when she switched places with Nobara she was murdered.

Chapter 9: Murase's True Colours

GOTOUDA-SAN
YES?
What.....!?

Enjell Beauty Clinic
WHAT?
YOU SAID THAT THE GUY WHO JUST LEFT'S NAME IS GO-TOUDA?
YOU DEFINITELY SAID THAT RIGHT!?
IT WAS GOTOUDA!?
DID HE HAVE PLASTIC SURGERY!!?
OMG
THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL TO THE PATIENT SO I CAN'T ANSWER.
PLEASE LEAVE.
EH...

LEND THIS TO ME
PLEASE GIVE ME BACK HIS LICENSE
IT'S ALREADY GONE I GAVE IT TO THE POLICE
...
...
EH... AH... SORRY, I MEANT THE KOBAN
What if Murase-san had
Plastic Surgery and is really Gotouda..?

Huh?
THE FIRST DAY I MET MURASE-KUN?
Hime-chan
AH... YEAH.
CAN MURASE DRIVE?
HAVE YOU SEEN HIS LICENSE?
NO, BUT...
HAS HE SHOWN YOU ANY OLD PHOTOS OF HIMSELF?
If that is his actual license he would be using it.
After the trial, if he immediately underwent the surgical procedure
It would take 2-3 weeks until the pain and swelling calmed down... With this calculation he had time.
DECEMBER 24TH <3
Christmas Day

Even though this thing is serious for Hime.
MURASE-KUN IS SO HANDSOME, DID YOU FALL FOR HIM?
Yu-n
NO WA...
KotoriKotori
KOTORI-CHAN WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Shoot me out questions~
LIKE HIS GRADUATION OR SOMETHING!?
UMM.. That's...
Baa-Chan!
U-MM, MURASE-KUN IS LIKE A MYSTERIOUS PRINCE SO
Kidding Kidding!
So
HIS MOBILE IS HIS PRIVATE POSSESSION AND HE WON'T SHOW IT TO ME, YOU KNOW.
I THOUGHT HE HAD ANOTHER GIRL AND I SNUCK INTO HIS ROOM TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND,
BUT THEN HE FOUND ME AND GOT ANGRY.

BECAUSE I KNOW WHERE HE KEEPS HIS KEY.
!!
SOMETIMES HE HIDES IT BEHIND THE FIRE HYDRANT OR INSIDE THE POST IN HIS DOORWAY.
BUT SINCE THEN HE CHANGED THE PIN TO OPEN HIS POST BOX.
...
nya
ha
ha
ha
HIMENO, THANKS FOR WAITING.

MURASE-KUN'S JUST ARRIVED SO I'M GONNA GO NOW,
See ya!
You surprised me! WOAH!
WAIT, HIME-CHAN...
beep
WHO WERE YOU HAVING SO MUCH FUN TALKING TO?
Umm...
KOTORI-CHAN, BUT...
WHAT?
Kotori chan?
SHE WAS ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU...
....

WHEN SHE ASKED "IS MURASE'S LAST NAME MANABU?"
RATHER THAN BEING SURPRISED, AT THAT TIME KOTORI-CHAN LOOKED ANGRY.
202
I'M A REALLY INSENSITIVE WOMAN AREN'T I...
I wonder if I hurt Kotori's feelings
This isn't something we should talk about in a place like this.
IT'S NOT HIMENO'S FAULT.
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER THE FULL NAME OF CRIMINALS.
IT'S A COMMON NAME.
Even though this is the first time we're having this talk.
MURASE-KUN
Hmm
rustle...
WHY I DIDN'T REALISE?
Yet...
YEAH. THE GUY WHO KILLED NOBARA, HIS NAME WAS MANABU.
IT'S NOT THAT I FORGOT...
Really

BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... THAT GUY'S FACE.
BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN TRASH, IT'S HIM I THINK OF...
Hey, MURASE-KUN ARE YOU LISTENING!?
Enjell Clinic
YES. SO THAT WILL BE CHANGED TO THE 22ND THEN...
SORRY FOR THE INCON-VENIENCE.
UH.. MR. GOTOUDA

THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I CAME BY THE CLINIC
AFTER YOU LEFT, A WOMAN CAME TO RECEPTION... SHE ASKED ABOUT YOU.
OF COURSE WE SENT HER AWAY, BUT...
BEEP
I SEE ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...

202
Because I know where he keeps his key.
CLANK
101
102
201
202
TOC TOC
Inside the post box in the doorway.
He sometimes hides it behind the fire hydrant or

At that time, with what kind of emotions did he raise his hands in front of the Buddhist altar!?
CLACK
And on that day, how did he feel when he suddenly saw my face?
CLACK
What if Murase-san is Gotouda?
CLACK
KU...
KLUNK
There is probably something in Murase-san's room.
Some sort of proof that he is Gotouda.

I will find proof that he is indeed Gotouda.
Hime-chan's boyfriend
is indeed.
Yes
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SURPRISE
Murase-san.
AH ...

AH
UMM——
That is...
clench
....
HAND
...
SURPRISE
GRAB
YOU'RE BLEEDING
...
This guy...
He choked Kotori with this hand!?

SHOCK
No.
WOOSH
!!
.....
SHA
TSU
...
KOTORI-
CHAN,
WAIT..!
WOOSH

It's scary.
I'm scared.
I SAID WAIT!

YU...
YUUWA...
I CHECKED AT THE PLACE YOU WORK PART-TIME.
THEY SAID YOU DIDN'T GO TO WORK YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE SO..
What were you thinking?
THAT'S TRES-PASSING.
BUT ...
IS THAT GUY REALLY GOTOUDA. ?
HIS VOICE?
THEY SAY EVEN IF YOU HAVE PLASTIC SURGERY YOUR VOICE WON'T CHANGE.
How is his?

HIS VOICE...
AT THE TRIAL HE WAS SUBDUED AND SPOKE QUIETLY SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
.....
IF HE IS GOTOUDA...
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
... I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.
YOU AREN'T THINKING OF SOMETHING STUPID?
BUT...

SKI ...
YOU'VE BECOME SO SKINNY...
EAT PROPERLY NOBARA, Please.
ISN'T IT OK FOR YOU TO SLOWLY RETURN TO A NORMAL LIFESTYLE?
WHAT ABOUT TRYING TO GO TO UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR? I SAID BEFORE, LET'S GO TO THE SAME PLACE.
LIKE BEFORE, GOING TO KARAOKE AND CONCERTS, LAUGHING...
HONESTLY TELL EVERYONE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY NOBARA.
TSU ...
DON'T CONTINUE TO BE SCARED FOREVER.

GRAB
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WATCH SILENTLY,
RIGHT?
IT'S UNTHINKABLE.
"DID YOU RESET YOUR LIFE!?"
HE CHANGED HIS NAME AND FACE.
IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT GOTOUDA WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LIVE AS MURASE-SAN.
BUT ...
I WON'T ALLOW HIM TO BECOME HAPPY.
THAT HE CAN FALL IN LOVE AND GET MARRIED.
LAUGH.
THAT A MURDERER CAN EAT.

THI...
THIS... I UNDERSTAND THAT TO BE BURSTING WITH THIS SORROW AND RESENTMENT EVERY DAY IS NO GOOD, BUT...
BUT IN THIS WAY NOW, EVEN NOW..
I'M STILL INHALING THE SAME AIR AS THAT GUY.
TO THINK THAT GUY IS ABLE TO LIVE NORMALLY.
IT MAKES ME SICK.
I wanted him to receive the death penalty more than anything.
THE MENTAL STATE OF THAT CRIMINAL ACTION AT THAT TIME.
THE MOTIVES.
NO MATTER WHAT, THE VICTIM'S SIDE SHOULD BE TAKEN. BUT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE.

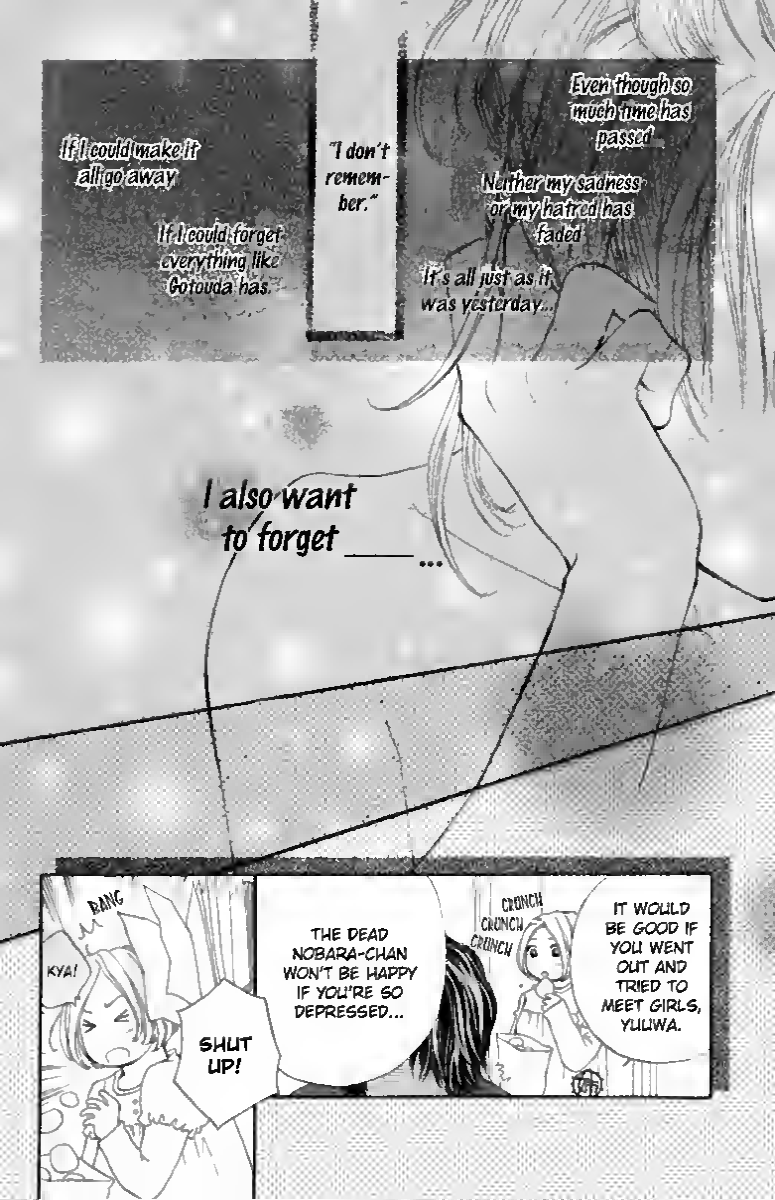
"YOU STOLE KOTORI'S LIFE."
THAT IS THE ONLY FACT.
....
I GET THAT BUT-
BUT DON'T DO SUCH STUPID THING AS
HOW CAN YOU SO EASILY SAY YOU GET IT?
IT WASN'T YOUR FAMILY WHO HAD SOMEONE MURDERED!
Can you really under-stand?

HA
HA
MOTHER.
Where are you going?
I WAS GOING TO GO PICK YOU TWO UP
Hey
And give you umbrellas
BECAUSE I HEARD IT'S GOING TO RAIN SOON..
.....
Umm..
Is she still on her way here?
YOU AREN'T WITH NOBARA?
.....
SHE SAID SHE HAS CLUB ACTIVITIES UNTIL LATE...
OH, OK...
DID YOUR FATHER TAKE AN UMBRELLA WITH HIM..?
....

She still suffers from memory loss.
In my mother's world, Kotori and I are still elementary school students
Father is also alive...

In order to protect herself from the things she doesn't want to see or hear, there are times when her eye sight and hearing are incompetent.
They think, after all... that the cause is psychological.
Inside her mind everything is beautiful, right? She can't see anything out of order.

CTEAM
Her cold face inside the coffin.
Kotori's cold body in the morgue.
When I bathe, I remember


If I could make it all go away
If I could forget everything like Gotouda has.
"I don't remember."
Even though so much time has passed
Neither my sadness or my hatred has faded
It's all just as it was yesterday...
I also want to forget ____...
BANG
KYA!
SHUT UP!
THE DEAD NOBARA-CHAN WON'T BE HAPPY IF YOU'RE SO DEPRESSED...
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
IT WOULD BE GOOD IF YOU WENT OUT AND TRIED TO MEET GIRLS, YUUWA.

I DIDN'T LOSE ANYONE.
Shit!
NOBARA IS ALIVE.
Dammit!
BAM
What the hell?
ONLY YOU, BIG SISTER, COULD SO CARELESSLY BECOME SO EFFING FAT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!
Tell me!
WHAT, YUUWA? IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE.
THE STATION!? WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO GO?
From this morning?
IF I CAN, I WILL PROBABLY DO SOMETHING. SO...
Huh?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
IF HE REALLY IS GOTOUDA THEN IT'S SERIOUSLY DANGEROUS FOR YOU.
STOP!
I FOUND OUT WHERE MURASE-SAN WORKS SO I'M GOING TO GO AND HAVE A LOOK.

HE WENT AS FAR AS PLASTIC SURGERY TO CONCEAL HIS TRUE COLOURS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WILL DO TO YOU IF YOU EXPOSE HIM..?
Please wait behind the safety line.
BUMP
Ah, excuse me.
The train on plat form 3 is arriving.
WOOSH
I already told you, I won't wait uselessly at home.
beep

BUMP
What..?

HONK
KYAAAAA

whisper
whisper
No way...
Someone pushed me...
...HA
J...
Just no...
That hand...
There's no mistaking it.

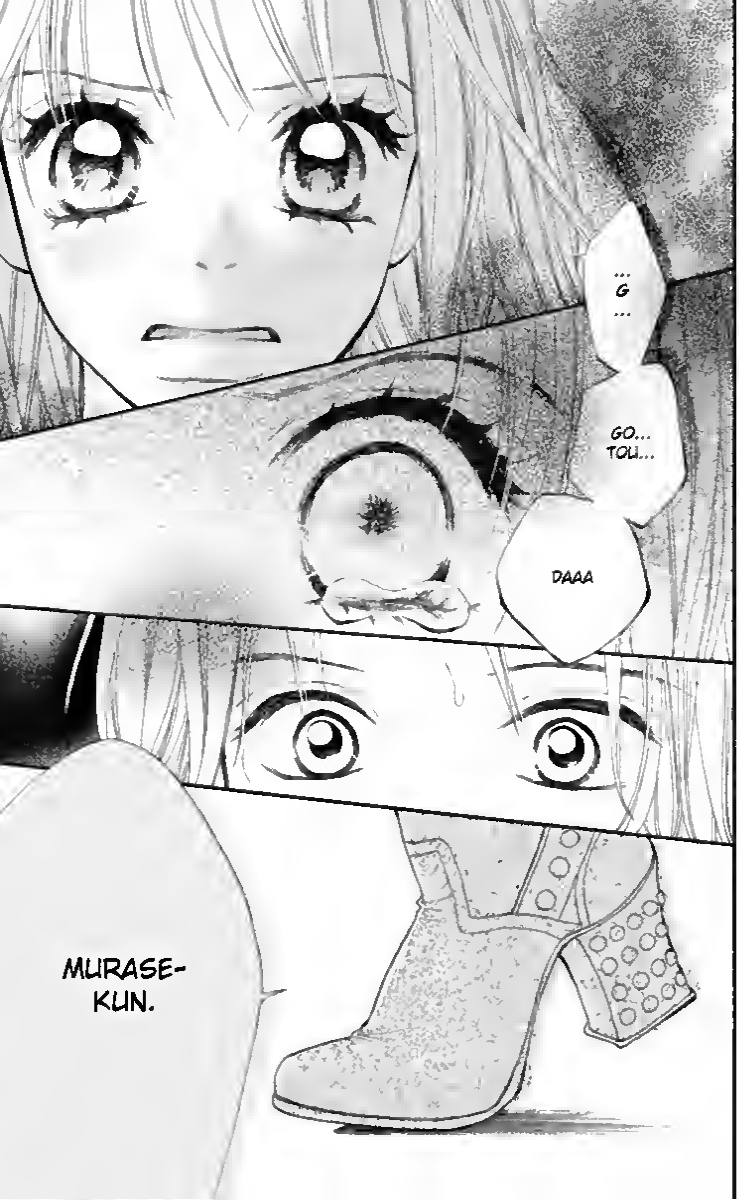
That hand was...
KOTORI-CHAN.
KEIJI-SAN.
WOOSH
YOU SAID THAT IT SEEMS YOU WERE PUSHED FROM THE PLAT-FORM...?
PLEASE EXPLAIN.
DID THAT GUY HAVE A TATTOO?
HUH?
DID THAT GUY HAVE A BARCODE TATTOO?
WHY DID YOU KNOW THAT..?

YA
HA
KOTORI-CHAN?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AHHHH—
That guy is

GOTOUDAAA
Shall I kill that piece of shit?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY, KOTORI-CHAN?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND?
Hime-chan, It's not OK?
YOU SAID IT'S NOT OK?
That guy is.
IT'S NOT OK TO MEET MURASE-SAN.
IT'S NOT OK TO ENTER HIS APART-MENT.
PLEASE WAIT THERE.

KAN
KAN
LET'S GO HOME, HIME-CHAN.
ha
ha
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG?
THE NAME MANABU?
IF IT'S THAT I DIDN'T REALISE HIS NAME IS THE SAME AS A CRIMINAL, I'M SORRY BUT...
IT'S NOT THAT.
MURASE-KUN WILL BE BACK SOON, SO...
GRAB
YOU CAN'T MEET HIM.
OUCH...
Wark!

What the heck?
ANGRY
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOBARA'S SISTER... I CAN ONLY FORGIVE SO MUCH!
STEP
STEP
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T LISTEN TO YOUR HATRED RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE LEAVE...
GO.....
AH...


...
G
...
GO...
TOU...
DAAA
MURASE-
KUN.

grab
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.....
I'M...
HIMENO...?
Hime-chan?

I'M
PREGNANT.

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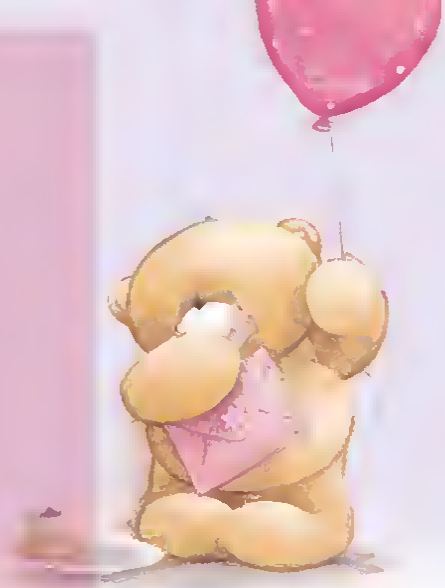
Bear Scans is recruiting!

Head to our website for more information:

http://bearscans.wordpress.com



第10話「告白」

PR...
PREG...
NANT?
Hime-chan!
WHAT...?

HIMENO!
I'M SORRY I'VE TROUBLED YOU WITH THIS.
Ah..
That's
WHAT SHOULD I DO ?
MURASE-KUN?
...
BUT I'VE REALLY ONLY BEEN WITH MURASE-KUN SO...
AND IN THE END.
I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL AND CHECKED
I THOUGHT IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE BUT...
BECAUSE WE USED CONTRACEP-TION
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. .
REALLY? HIMENO.

I'M SOOO HAPPY!
I'M HAPPY HIMENO!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ぎゅっ
SFX: Squeeze
St.. stop.
MURASE-KUN...
TO OUR BABY, HIMENO.
GIVE BIRTH
Stop it!
WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING...?!

HIME-CHAN..
THIS GUY IS...
THIS GUY IS GOTOUDA!
THERE'S NO WAY!
HE'S GOTOUDA WHO HAD PLASTIC SURGERY ON HIS FACE!

SFX: grab
HE'S TRICKING YOU HIME-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KOTORI-CHAN?
YOU CAN'T GIVE BIRTH TO A MURDERER'S BABY!
KYA!
HIMENO! ARE YOU OKAY!?
IT HURTS...
thump

KICH
YOU'RE FUCKING KIDDING ME!
Biku
WHAT THE ..?
YOU SAID THAT MURASE-KUN, WHO IS ACTUALLY GOTOUDA
PUSHED YOU OFF THE STATION PLATFORM THIS MORNING
...?

SFX: GRAB
ばっ
THIS HAND PUSHED ME!
I CLEARLY SAW IT!
KOTORI-CHAN. . THIS MORNING I LEFT EARLY.
AT 7AM, I WAS AT THE COMPANY BUT. .
IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN ASK THE STAFF.
HUH
He's saying he has an alibi?
...

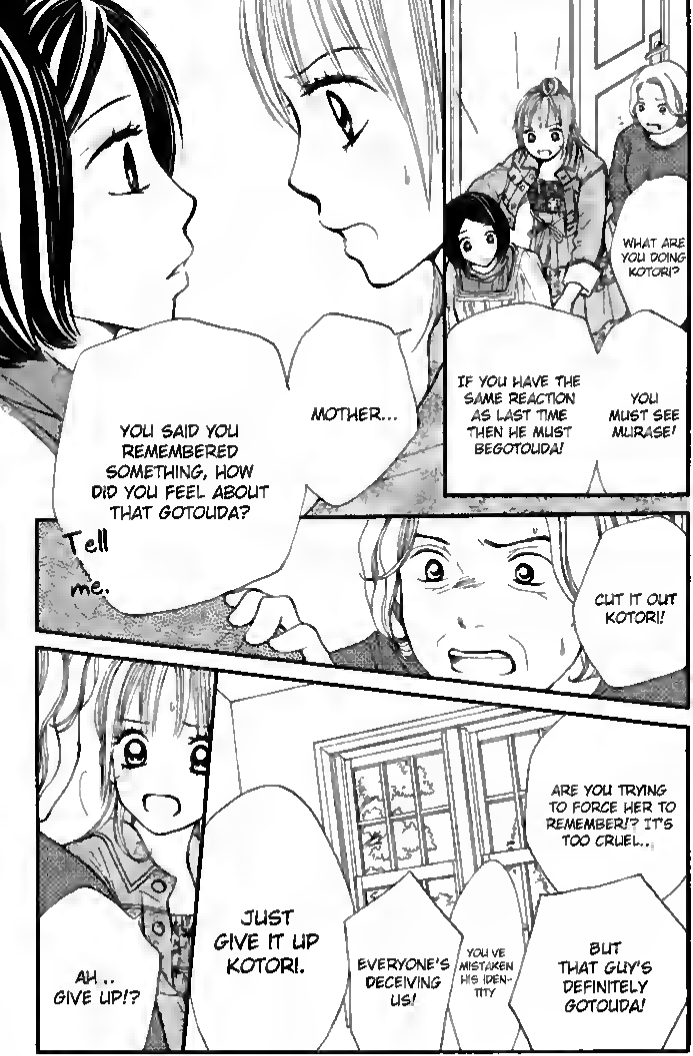
THA.. THAT'S TRUE ..
Left? Right?
Huh..?
I'M LEFT-HANDED SO I HAD THE TATTOO DONE ON MY RIGHT HAND.
BUT MOST PEOPLE ARE RIGHT-HANDED SO THEY'D GET TATTOOED ON THEIR LEFT WRIST, RIGHT?
THE TATTOO THAT KOTORI-CHAN SAW, WAS IT ON THE
LEFT OR THE RIGHT WRIST?
THUMP THUMP
That's true
Ah!

WHAT IS WRONG KOTORI-CHAN?
THAT'S...
WHICH WAS IT?
BU... BUT!
DIDN'T YOU COME OUT OF A PLASTIC SURGERY CLINIC?
I SAW YOU!
THAT WAS... I WAS THINKING I COULD HAVE THIS TATTOO REMOVED SO I HAD A CONSULTATION.
IF I SHOW YOU THIS, I WONDER IF YOU'LL BELIEVE ME?
BUT DIDN'T THEY CALL YOU GOTOUDA?!
I HEARD IT!

Eh...
村瀬 学
Murase Manabu
運転免許証
This can't be!
I AM MURASE MANABU.
I AM NOT GOTOUDA MANABU.

DON'T SAY ANYTHING WORSE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE ABOUT MURASE-KUN.
HIME-CHAN, NO I...
YOU'RE JUST HATEFUL TOWARDS PEOPLE'S HAPPINESS.
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T SYMPATHIZE WITH WHAT YOU'RE SAYING KOTORI.
SOMETHING'S FISHY...
WHAT I'M HEARING AND SEEING MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GOTOUDA.
That's...!
THAT SHOULD NOT BE...

GO HOME!
Even though that bastard is definitely Gotouda
IT'S FINE, JUST COME WITH ME MOTHER.
HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING KOTORI?
IF YOU HAVE THE SAME REACTION AS LAST TIME THEN HE MUST BEGOTOUDA!
YOU MUST SEE MURASE!
MOTHER...
YOU SAID YOU REMEMBERED SOMETHING, HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT GOTOUDA?
Tell me..
CUT IT OUT KOTORI!
ARE YOU TRYING TO FORCE HER TO REMEMBER!? IT'S TOO CRUEL..
BUT THAT GUY'S DEFINITELY GOTOUDA!
YOU'VE MISTAKEN HIS IDENTITY
EVERYONE'S DECEIVING US!
JUST GIVE IT UP KOTORI.
AH.. GIVE UP!?

BUT DON'T YOU FEEL RESENT-MENT?
OF COURSE I DO!
I ALSO WANTED TO CATCH THAT GUY AND END HIS LIFE.
IF ONLY I COULD HAVE
BUT HE'S ALREADY BEEN DECLARED INNOCENT!
IT'S ALREADY OVER.
IT ISN'T OVER YET. NOTHING IS!
PLEASE JUST LET IT END.
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LIVE THE LIFE I HAVE LEFT IN HATE.

Even grand-mother...!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL FORGET NOBARA ..?
IT'S NOT THAT...
IT'S NOT THAT BUT...
—CH
ALL I CAN HEAR IS YOU SAYING, "LET'S FORGET NOBARA".
WHAT'S WRONG KOTORI, WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY...?
DIDN'T I GET YOU A STUFFED BUNNY RABBIT?
STUPID MOTHER.

Grand-mother!?
KOTORI!
sfx: slap
Why is everyone...?
YOU KNOW, BEING ABLE TO COMPLETELY FORGET SUCH A DESPICABLE THING...
MOTHER IS LUCKY.
Is this what happens when three years have passed?
KOTORI —!
sfx: bump

Yuuwa...!
SFX: push
I WON'T FORGET!
I DEFINITELY WON'T FORGET ABOUT KOTORI.

I WON'T FORGIVE THAT BASTARD.
squeeze
SO I'LL TEAR OFF HIS MASK AND REVEAL THAT GUY'S TRUE CHARACTER!
HE WAS ABLE TO FORGE THAT LICENSE .
Such a thing!
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME.
...
...NOHARA, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CALL IT FORGERY.
THIS ISN'T A NOVEL OR A T.V DRAMA SO...

HE SAID THAT IF I CAN ESCAPE THE DEATH PENALTY AND AM ALLOWED TO RETURN TO SOCIETY,
THEN I'M LUCKY...
Even if he says I'm strange it doesn't matter.
I TRIED TO CHANGE MY WAY OF THINKING...
It's impossible for me to stifle my hatred and continue living like my grandmother.
BECAUSE WITH THESE HANDS I WILL BE ABLE TO DESTROY MY ENEMY.

OI! WAIT!
NO...

Huh?
ARE YOU A RE-PORTER!?
IT CAN'T BE THE MEDIA AGAIN?!
Wh
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT!
That's enough already
...
NO... I'M...
Ah!
...
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE
MURASE-SAN?

I STARTED TO WORRY...
HIMENO AND I SAID HORRIBLE THINGS AND SUDDENLY LEFT SO..
I JUST CAME TO CHECK ON..
KOTORI-CHAN...
Glare
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE THIS MUCH WITH PLASTIC
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT HIM HE ISN'T GOTOLIDA
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD ONLY BEEN DATING FOR 3 MONTHS, IT'S TOO FAST.
HE GOT HIS GIRL PREGNANT.
Yeah.
A GUY'S FACE IS IMPORTANT AFTER ALL
SO FOR GIRLS,
COUGH
Ano
Ex-
EXCUSE ME!
THAT GIRL... A... UMM.. KOTORI-CHAN WAS REALLY RUDE I'M SORRY..
BOW

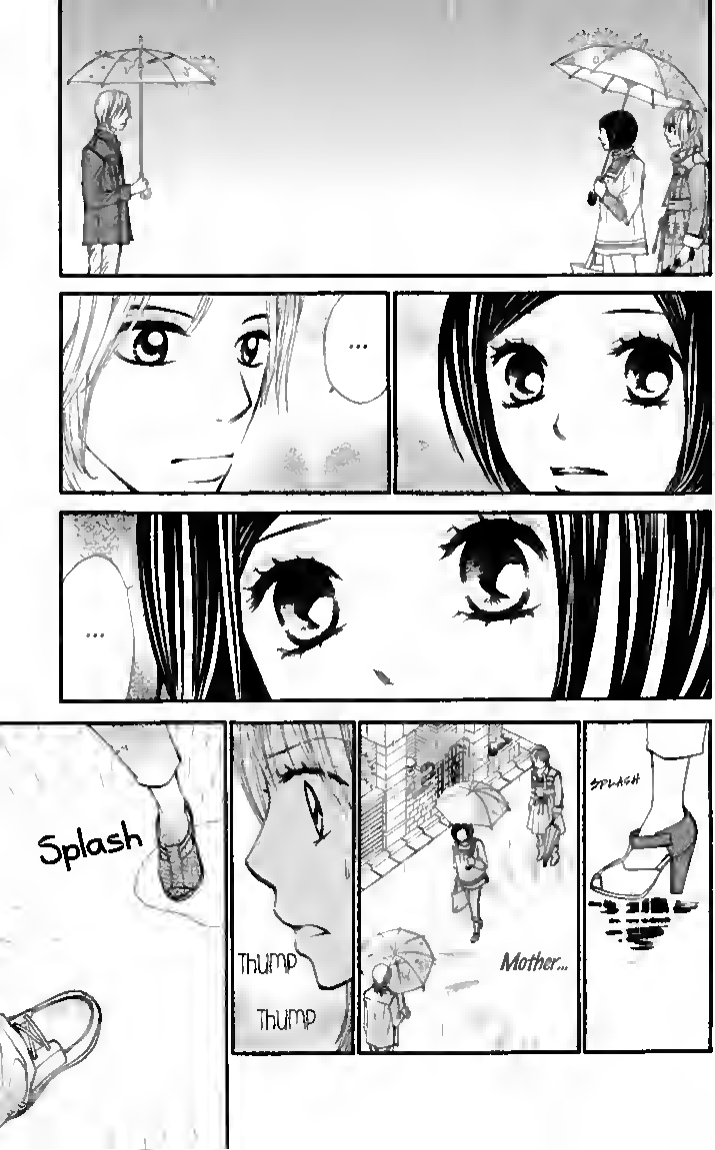
Ah... no...
THE THING SHE SAID ABOUT YOU BEING GOTOUDA ISN'T POSSIBLE
PLEASE FORGIVE HER.
that's...
FOR HER... FOR KOTORI-CHAN THESE FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DIFFICULT...
WHEN SHE WALKED DOWN THE STREET, SOME GUY SHE DIDN'T KNOW APPROACHED HER.
SHE AIMLESSLY WANDERED AROUND THAT STRANGE PLACE AND CAME ACROSS SOMETHING BAD.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT HER NUMBER...
BUT SHE GOT PRANK CALLED MANY TIMES
AND YOU KNOW HER MOTHER ALSO BECAME THAT WAY
SHE MUST FACE MANY TROUBLES...
SHE ALSO QUIT UNIVERSITY AND STARTED A PART TIME JOB...
D-DIDN'T THEY RECEIVE PAYMENTS... AS THE VICTIMIZED FAMILY?

"MURDERER!!"
"GOTOLIDA!"
I DON'T THINK THEY RECEIVED ANYTHING LIKE THAT..
...I SEE..
IT'S LIKE THEIR POOR FAMILY HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.
IN THE END NOBARA'S FAMILY CANNOT DO ANYTHING.
IT'S HELL FOR HER.
UM... I CAN SEE SHE CRIES HERSELF TO SLEEP...
KOTORI-CHAN SAID SHE WANTED TO GET REVENGE AGAINST GOTOLIDA AS A MESSAGE TO HER MURDERED SISTER.
THEN SHE COINCIDENTALLY PICKED UP THAT GUY'S LICENSE--
GOTOLIDA DISAPPEARED AND IT SEEMED LIKE SHE GAVE UP ON REVENGE BUT--

SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLE AND MIRACULOUS COINCIDENCE AS PICKING UP THAT LICENSE...
OF COURSE I BECAME SCARED TOO... THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...
...
STUBBORN..
YEAH
EVEN THOUGH YOU AREN'T GOTOUDA.
AT ANY RATE KOTORI-CHAN WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE REAL GOTOUDA.
Squeeze
DEFINITELY.

I—I'M HOME
Ah, you're right.
No, it's Nobara!
Click
Come on, let's go.
NOBARA, WELCOME HOME!
KOTO
IT'S JUST A CHECK-UP, NATSUKO.
NO! I DON'T NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL

It's been a while since we made sweets
YEAH
LET'S MAKE FRUIT SPONGE CAKE, MOTHER
IT WAS KOTORI'S FAVORITE
LET'S GO BUY THE INGREDIENTS


...
...
Splash
Thump
Thump
Mother...
SPLASH

NOBARA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Hurry and walk.
Huh...
What's different?
Isn't this guy Gotouda?
This...
This shouldn't be.

Right, Kotori?
..NO
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS,
NO MATTER WHAT EVIDENCE IS PLACED BEFORE ME
THERE IS NO MISTAKING YOU ARE GOTOUDA!
That's right!?
Right?..
IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT WHEN SOMEONE DIES HE OR SHE LIVES ON IN THE HEART OF OTHERS
BUT I CAN'T AGREE WITH THAT!
AFTER ALL I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING...
I can't hear Kotori's voice.

TO SAY SHE IS LIVING ON IN SOME-ONE'S HEART...
COULD IT BE THAT RATHER THAN OUR HEARTS
SHE LIVES ON IN YOUR HEART INSTEAD?
THAT DAY!
WHEN YOU STRANGLED HER, HER DISTRESSED FACE,
CRIES FOR HELP,
BODY TEMPERA-TURE...
YOU CAN'T SAY YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT.

YOU THOUGHT YOU WON INNOCENCE. BUT MY SISTER WILL NOT BE ERASED FROM YOUR MIND!
INSIDE OF YOU, NOBARA WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY!
HER FACE, HER NAME, IT WON'T CHANGE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETELY RESET YOUR LIFE!

YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO RESET YOUR LIFE!
Splash

"YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO RESET YOUR LIFE!"
Step
Step
202

...
I WANTED YOU BOTH TO HEAR THIS.
MURASE-KUN, YOU CALLED ME TOO?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

MURASE-KUN...?!
THE ONE WHO MURDERED NOBARA-CHAN IS...
THE ME BEFORE YOU.

JUST LIKE YOU SAID...
I AM GOTOUDA MANABU.

Volume 2 Chapter 10

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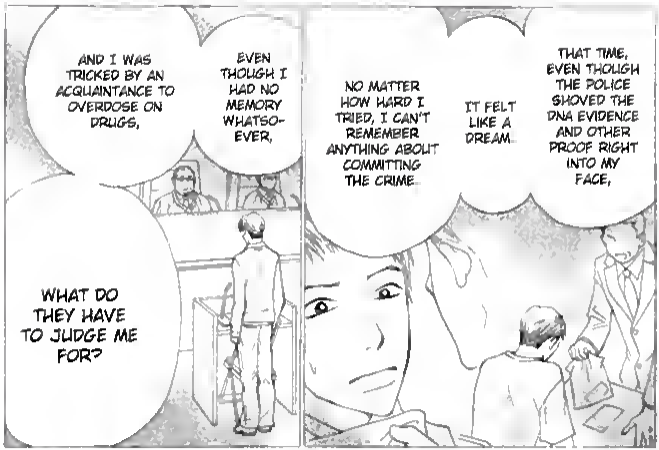
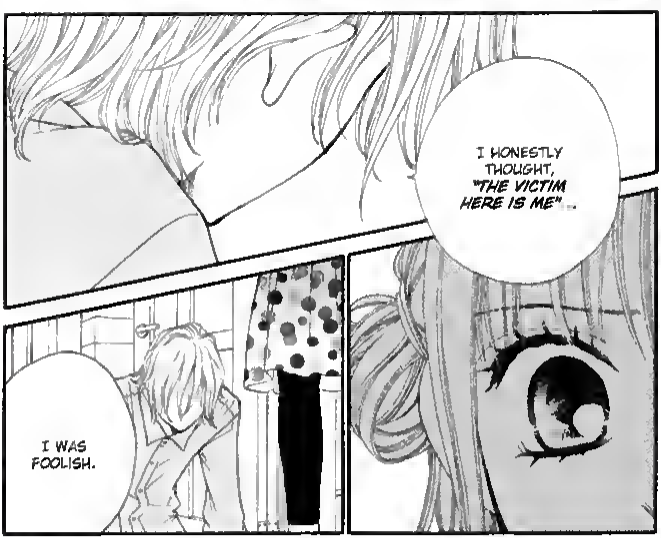
Chapter 11: Confusion

I'M GOTOUDA MANABU.
N-...
NO... WAY

WHAT...SO MURASE-KUN WAS THAT CRIMINAL?
IT'S A LIE...
I was right...
THAT DAY
I USED DRUGS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
THE FACT THAT I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING DURING THE TIME OF THE CRIME WAS NOT A LIE.


AND I WAS TRICKED BY AN ACQUAINTANCE TO OVERDOSE ON DRUGS,
EVEN THOUGH I HAD NO MEMORY WHATSO-EVER,
WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO JUDGE ME FOR?
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT COMMITTING THE CRIME...
IT FELT LIKE A DREAM...
THAT TIME, EVEN THOUGH THE POLICE SHOVED THE DNA EVIDENCE AND OTHER PROOF RIGHT INTO MY FACE,


I HONESTLY THOUGHT, "THE VICTIM HERE IS ME"...
I WAS FOOLISH.

MEETING KOTORI-CHAN ONCE AGAIN...
SOMEHOW, MY OWN LIES WERE STARTING TO UNRAVEL...
3 YEARS IS STILL TOO SOON AND YOU SLOWLY STARTED TO RECOGNIZE ME
WHEN I LOOKED AT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, I SAW THAT YOU WERE STILL CONTINUING TO SUFFER EVEN UP TO NOW,
AND THAT INCIDENT CAUSED ME TO OPEN MY EYES TO REALITY.
IF I LOOK AT IT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY, MY CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SURELY BE IRRELEVANT...
GOTOUDA MANABU, THE MAN WHO TOOK THE LIFE OF NOBARA-CHAN...
I SAY I DON'T REMEMBER BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE FACT—
THIS "ME" CAME IN CONTACT WITH NOBARA-CHAN...
ON THAT DAY ON THAT TIME, IN THAT PLACE...
AT ANY RATE...

THE MURDERER, GOTOUDA MANABU, AND THIS "ME" ARE JUST THE SAME.
FOR RUINING KOTORI-CHAN'S FAMILY LIFE,
THIS "ME" DOESN'T HAVE ANY EXCUSES.
THOSE HANDS.
YOU STRANGLED NOBARA-CHAN WITH THOSE HANDS?!
Y— ..YOU KNEW THAT I WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF NOBARA AND YOU STILL GOT CLOSE TO ME?!
YOU'RE WRONG
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT EVEN IN MY WILDEST DREAMS

YOU WOULD'VE CONTINUED DECEIVING HIME-CHAN, WOULDN'T YOU?
IF I HADN'T DISCOVERED YOU...
BUT, I SHOULD'VE SEPARATED FROM YOU AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT—
YOU ALREADY CHANGED YOUR FACE AND YOUR NAME. DID YOU ALSO PLAN TO ERASE THE FACT THAT YOU MURDERED A PERSON IN THE PAST?!
AMAZING—
DID YOU THINK SOMETHING LIKE "OH, IF THAT'S THE CASE, SHOULD I MAKE MYSELF MORE HANDSOME"?!
AFTER THE TRIAL, YOU HAD PLASTIC SURGERY DONE...
WITH THAT FACE, NOBODY'S GOING TO RECOGNIZE GOTOUDA, RIGHT?

I AM DEEPLY SORRY.
DEEPLY SORRY?
SHOULD I SAY IT AGAIN?!
THE TIME WHEN THEY RULED YOU AS INNOCENT,
DID YOU FORGET WHAT I SAID TO YOU?
...
THAT'S IT?

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS?
TELL THEM... TELL THEM YOU DESERVE TO DIE!
I don't need your apology....

AS YOU WISH...

I DESERVE TO DIE.
MURA-
KO—... KOTORI-CHAN?!

I DIDN'T DO IT.
How long did I anxiously wait for this opportunity?
IT'S SUSPICIOUS, HOW THE LAW STATES THAT THIS MURDERER IS INNOCENT.
DON'T MOVE.
That time you smiled, I could never forgive you.
OKAY
EVEN IF WE EXECUTE THE CRIMINAL, YOUR LOVED ONE WILL NOT RETURN.
EXECUTION DOESN'T BRING PEACE TO ANYONE
I know that.
But, I...

If I can finally say "Ahh, Gotouda is no longer in this world",
If I can just make sure that that I see the dying form of Gotouda right before my eyes...
I think that only then can I finally move on towards the future.
If I had my way, I'd want to reset everything...
Watch me, Kotori.

Now, I'll take away Kotori's regrets.

What am I hesitating for?

Everyone, please understand.
This man here is the one who killed Kotori.
It's better to get it over with!
AH
Ah!

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED BY MYSELF.
IT'S LIKE YOU ASKED ME JUST SO YOU CAN SAY THAT I'VE ALSO BECOME A MURDERER.
THAT'S RIGHT... ASKING ME THIS AS A FAVOR IS COWARDLY
I AM TRULY SORRY.

MURASE-KUN!
HIMENO-?
Eh...
BY LIVING...
YOU CAN HELP...
AH

PLEASE, KOTORI-CHAN...
Why?

YES. WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS.
WE'LL NEVER FORGET NOBARA.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HIME-CHAN, WHY?!
WHY DID YOU DEFEND GOTOUDA?!
That's what you said, right? Hime-chan...
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THE GUY WHO KILLED MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.
Gotouda Manabu, who killed Nobara, is that guy
Forgiveness?
You're saying you're going to give birth to the child of that murderer?!
...
TSK...
Also, what was the matter with me?
Why didn't I stab him right there and then?!
What am I doing?

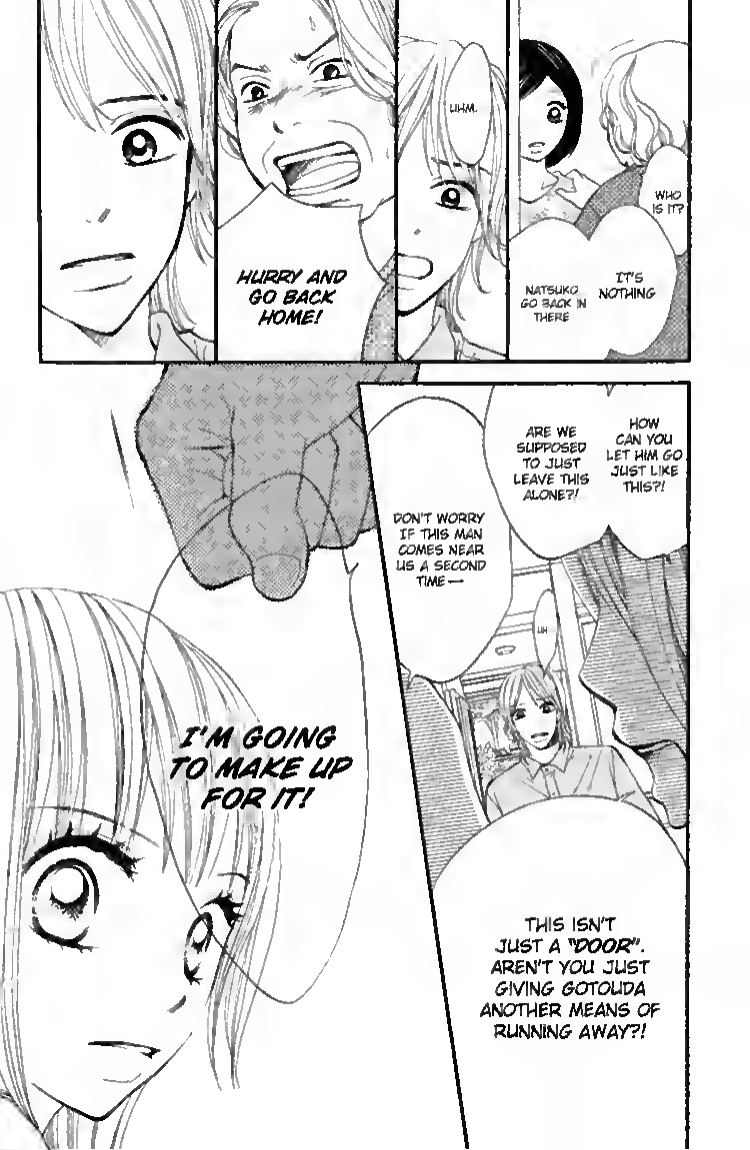
AS YOU WISH.
Like that... He didn't seem like he was about to stab me. I know. He might have been bluffing or something.
Next time, he might be able to conceal his whereabouts perfectly.
I'M HOME
KOTO-RI?!
IT'S NOTHING.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY IS YOUR FACE LIKE THAT?

WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS? COULD IT BE THAT YOU—...
DON'T THINK ABOUT DOING ANYTHING STUPID!
Ah...
Because...
...

Wha...
...
KOTORI...
DO YOU THINK THAT WE'LL ACCEPT THIS KIND OF THING?!
Rather, you're still alive?
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

"LET'S FORGIVE HIM."
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
SHOULD I SAY "YOU SHOULD ALSO LIVE YOUR LIFE TO THE FULLEST"?
...
UNDERSTAND? ABSOLUTELY FORGET ABOUT SENDING US ANY MONEY.
PLEASE DON'T APPEAR IN FRONT OF US A SECOND TIME. THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING.
I ONLY HAVE ONE WISH TO ASK OF YOU.

PLEASE SHOW YOURSELF TO THE DOOR.
IN ORDER FOR OUR FAMILY TO BECOME HAPPY AGAIN,
THE THREE OF US SHOULD TRY OUR BEST TO CONTINUE LIVING
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT'S ALL"
PLEASE DON'T DISTURB US ANY-MORE
IF WE FIND YOU WANDERING AIMLESSLY NEAR US, KOTORI WON'T STAY AS SHE IS NOW
GRAND-MA...
KOTORI? WHERE ARE YOU?
MOM?


UHM.
WHO IS IT?
IT'S NOTHING
NATSUKO, GO BACK IN THERE
HURRY AND GO BACK HOME!
HOW CAN YOU LET HIM GO JUST LIKE THIS?!
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO JUST LEAVE THIS ALONE?!
DON'T WORRY IF THIS MAN COMES NEAR US A SECOND TIME—
UH
THIS ISN'T JUST A "DOOR". AREN'T YOU JUST GIVING GOTOUDA ANOTHER MEANS OF RUNNING AWAY?!
I'M GOING TO MAKE UP FOR IT!

I PROMISE YOU, I WON'T RUN AWAY.
EVERY DAY, I'LL FACE IT UP FOR NOBARA-CHAN.
I WILL DEDICATE MY WHOLE LIFE IN MAKING UP FOR IT!
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO?!
UNLESS YOU CAN RETURN
THE LIFE YOU STOLE FROM MY SISTER
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR ANY OF IT!

I TOLD YOU! IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, JUST GO AND DIE!
NOBA—
KO—... KOTO-CHAN?!
He's apologizing
Eh?
YUUWA-KUN, PLEASE HOLD KOTORI BACK
Gotouda is apologizing.
His apologies are deceitful.
IT MUST BE NICE, HUH, MAKING UP FOR IT, ALIVE.

DIIIIIIEEEEE!
If you apologize to us...
then isn't there nothing else to do but to forgive you?
You even considered apologizing...
There's possibly no way for our family to just heal with only receiving the apologies of the murderer.
YOU SERIOUSLY RECOGNIZED THAT GOTOUDA..?
IS IT REALLY THAT GUY?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?
I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING
EVEN THOUGH THAT GUY WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME
I WONDER WHY I COULDN'T KILL THAT GUY...
WHY ...
My hands are shaking.
Mom's, Grandma's, and even Yuuwa's face suddenly appeared in my mind...
I'm scared.
ABOUT REVENGE...
IN REALITY, YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE WILL TO DO IT, DID YOU?
IT'S FRUSTRATING
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS, NOBARA?

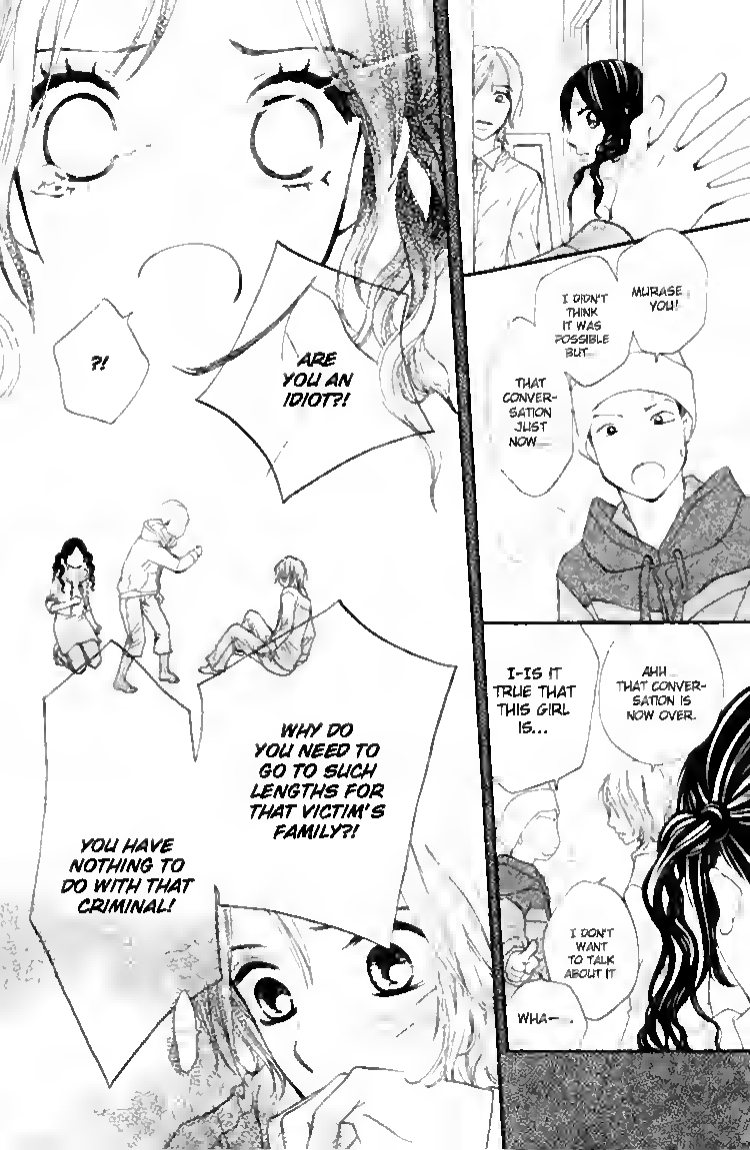
ARENT YOU SCARED OF ME, HIMENO?
That man...
202
WELL, YEAH. I'M JUST A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.
Killing a person is this terrifying... Even so, that man did it so easily.
...

I MIGHT PROBABLY BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOU.
IF YOU REFLECTED ON YOUR ACTIONS AND APOLOGIZED FOR THE CRIME THAT YOU COMMITTED...
Ah...
I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE...
BUT THAT TIME, MY BODY JUST MOVED ON ITS OWN.
AND I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT THAT MUCH...
E-EVEN I'M CONFUSED MYSELF.
EVEN THOUGH I AM THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR BEST FRIEND, NOBARA-CHAN?

I ONLY KNOW OF THE GENTLE MURASE-KUN!
B-
BE-CAUSE...
Hime..
IF I THINK LIKE THAT...
THEN.
MURASE-KUN'S FUTURE
BELIEVING IN
I WANT TO TRY
R RATHER THAN YOUR PAST...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, HIMENO.
HIMENO... I BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY GOING TO REGRET THIS SOMEDAY.
YOUR PARENTS ABSOLUTELY WON'T FOR-GIVE ME
IT'S ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVABLE... GETTING MARRIED TO A MURDERER.

THERE'S NO WAY I WILL LET YOU CARRY MY BURDENS ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN KEEP ON DEPENDING ON YOU.
I CAN'T MAKE HIMENO HAPPY.
NO... THAT'S..
GETTING MARRIED.. I DON'T DESERVE THAT KIND OF HAPPINESS.
...
WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?
PLEASE ABORT IT.

I'M SORRY, HIMENO.
I'M SO SORRY
IF I WERE TO BE FORGIVEN... I'D WANT TO STAY AS 'MURASE MANABU'. I'D WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE WITH HIMENO...
MURASEEE!


?!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
WHY DO YOU NEED TO GO TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR THAT VICTIM'S FAMILY?!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT CRIMINAL!
MURASE YOU!
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE BUT...
THAT CONVERSATION JUST NOW—
I-IS IT TRUE THAT THIS GIRL IS...
AHH... THAT CONVERSATION IS NOW OVER.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT
WHA—.

...
EH...?
KOTORI-CHAN!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIMENO EVER AGAIN
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
JUST LISTEN!
YOU WERE MISTAKEN!

MURASE-KUN ISN'T GOTOUDA!
FOR KOTORI-CHAN'S SAKE, MURASE-KUN..
JUST PRETENDED TO BE GOTOUDA!

Volume 1 Chapter 1

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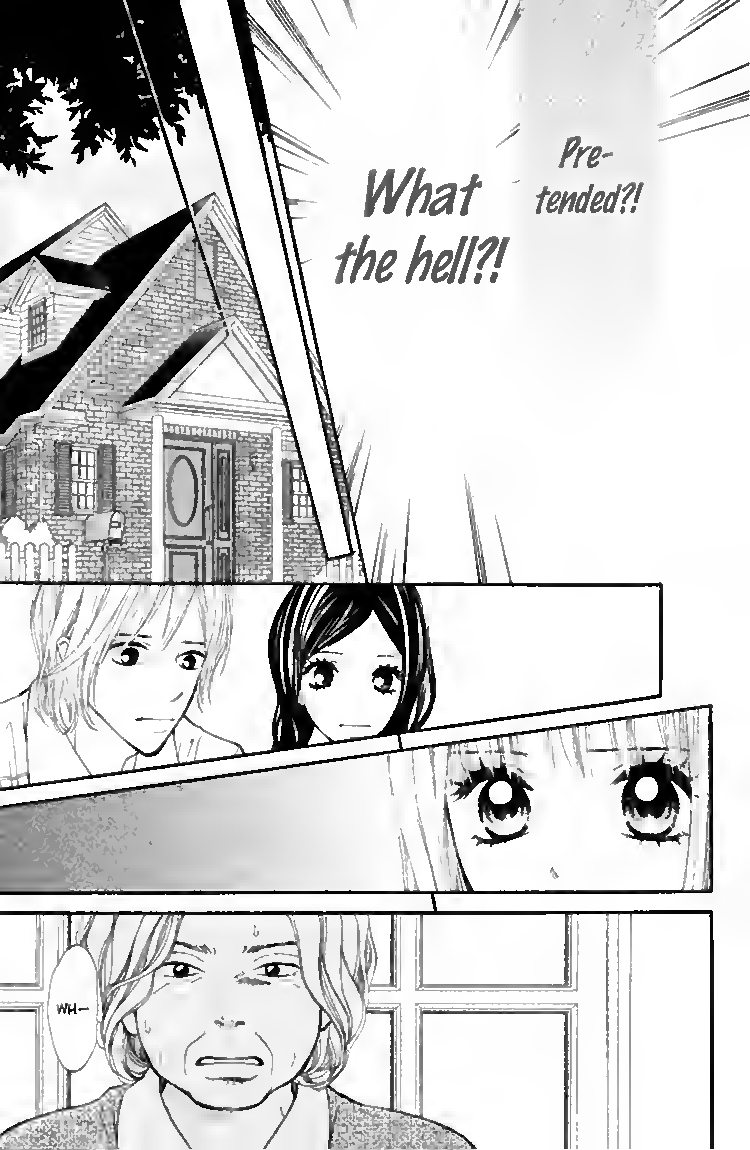
Chapter 12
THE ASSAILANT AND THE VICTIM'S BEREAVED FAMILY

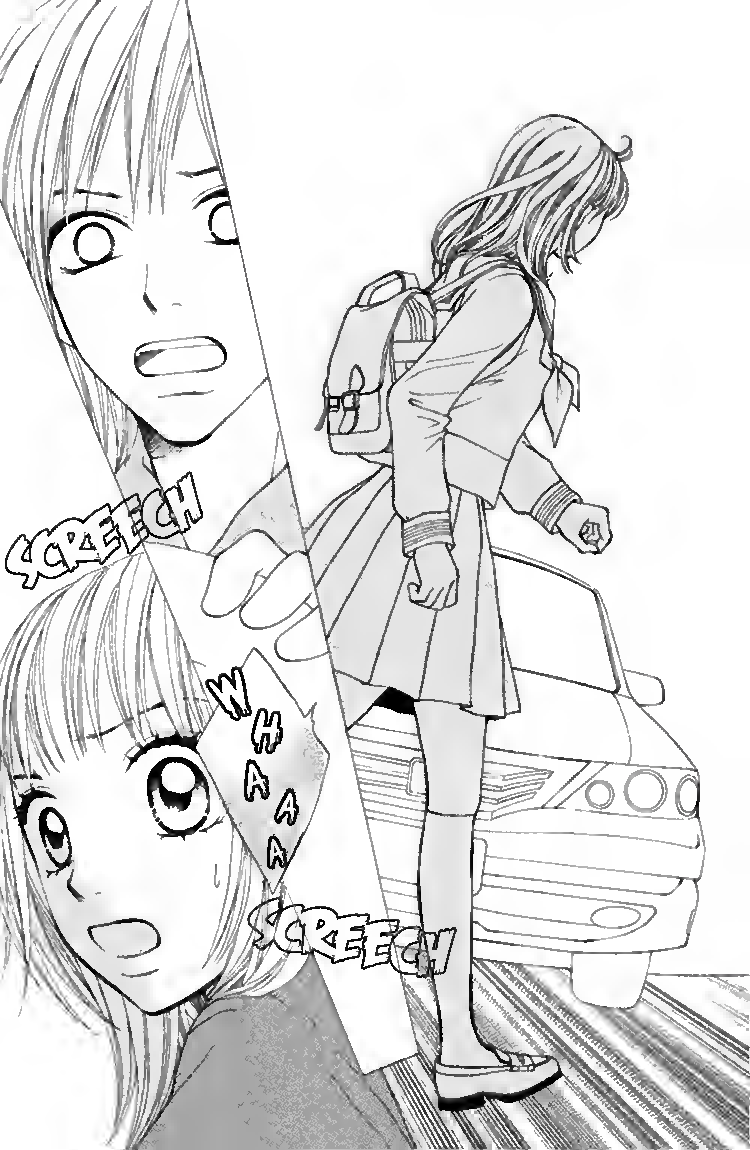
JUST PRETENDED TO BE GOTOUDA.
FOR YOUR SAKE, MURASE-KUN...
What...?
PRETENDED TO BE
=?


What the hell?!
Pre-tended?!
WH—

...
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? WILL YOU PLEASE TELL US PROPERLY, MURASE-SAN?
NO... I...
IF GOTOUDA WERE TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF US?
DID YOU MAYBE WANT TO SEE OUR REACTIONS
MURASE-KUN.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN. IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
WERE YOU SNEERING AT US BECAUSE WE GOT CONFUSED?

IT'S ALRIGHT, IF YOU TELL THEM EVERYTHING, THEY'LL UNDERSTAND
What are they talking about?!
...
I AM SORRY FOR LYING TO YOU.
I'M NOT GOTOUDA MANABU.
If you're not Gotouda, then who the hell are you?
BUT... I...

BUT I DID KILL A PERSON.
IT WAS 4 YEARS AGO...


SCREECH
WHAAA
SCREECH

CRASH

MURDER-ER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! THIS ISN'T PRISON, RIGHT?!
YOU RAN OVER MY SISTER AND YET YOU STILL LIVE YOUR LIFE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!
I'M... REALLY SORRY.
I'M REALLY SOR-
YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT WAS 100% MY SISTER'S FAULT!? WHY!?
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PROPERLY LOOKING AT WHERE YOU WERE GOING, RIGHT!?
I was ruled to be innocent and there was no prosecution.

YOU DID NOTHING WRONG, MANABU.
LET'S GO.
HAAH
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MANABU.
IT WAS A GREEN LIGHT WHEN YOU WERE DRIVING.
THE WITNESS AND THE SECURITY CAMERAS ALSO PROVED THAT.
THEY SAY THAT THE WAY HOW THE GIRL SUDDENLY JUMPED OUT WAS SUICIDAL.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
IF HADN'T TOLD HER TO COME HOME QUICKLY...
MOTHER...

Please don't do this kind of thing again.
To be honest, we don't want to see your name.
We have already decided that it wasn't your fault.
I was forgiven
OR SO I thought
How-ever...
!?

MY MOTHER AND FATHER DIVORCED YESTERDAY!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT THAT OUR FAMILY IS FALLING APART!
IF YOU WEREN'T DRIVING THAT DAY, THAT TIME, THEN MY SISTER WOULDN'T HAVE DIED!

WHEN I TURN 18, I WILL IMMEDIATELY GET MY DRIVER'S LICENSE
AND I AM GOING TO RUN YOU OVER WITH MY CAR!
DON'T YOU DARE FORGET ABOUT THIS!
So... sorry.
MY PARENTS WON'T ALLOW IT...
The girl I liked back then also left me when she learned about my past.
I resigned from the company I was working in
and I moved from my apartment. It was like I was running away.

...
Isn't that so?
HAVEN'T THE POLICE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT YOU DID NOTHING WRONG?!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DO, YOU'RE A GREAT GUY!
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO FIND LOVE OR GET MARRIED, MURASE?
KYAA
GOING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S ROOM JUST LIKE THAT?!
HIMENO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I-I'M... SO... SORRY...
This girl is the only one I don't want to lose
Only Himeno
I'M... SORRY, HIMENO.
It was my fault
I didn't think you would get that angry
I was surprised
Sorry

HIMENO DECIDED TO CONTINUE KEEPING MY PAST A SECRET.
THE LIGHT WAS GREEN.
IT WASN'T MURDER
RATHER, "YOU ARE THE VICTIM HERE" SHE SAID.
I HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN...
HOWEVER, THAT DAY, WHEN I MET YOU BY CHANCE... I...

YOU AND THAT GIRL REALLY HAVE THE SAME LOOK IN YOUR EYES.
IN THAT INSTANT, I THOUGHT THAT THE GIRL APPEARED AGAIN
WAS SURPRISED
I AM GOING TO RUN YOU OVER WITH MY CAR!
I'M GOING TO GET MY REVENGE ON YOU WITH THESE HANDS.
(FLASHBACK)
THERE WAS NEVER A DAY WHEN I DIDN'T REMEMBER...
THE SOUND WHEN SHE WAS THROWN OFF BY THE CAR OR THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE WHEN SHE HIT THE CONCRETE
AS YOU SAID, SHE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE THROUGH ME...
NOBARA-CHAN WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE THROUGH YOU!
TIME WON'T TURN BACK!

I DID NOTHING WRONG BUT...
I WON'T LET MYSELF FORGET.
THAT GIRL WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE THROUGH ME AND SHE CAN GROW UP TO BE AN ADULT.
WHY SHOULD I FORGET WHEN I HAVEN'T BEEN FORGIVEN YET?
FOR THE VICTIM'S FAMILY, I'M A MURDERER WHO STOLE THE LIFE OF THEIR DAUGHTER.

HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ALREADY MOVED OUT.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FUNERAL SERVICE.
JUST RECENTLY, I WENT BACK TO THEIR PLACE AGAIN TO PAY THEM A VISIT.
WITHOUT EVEN A HINT TO FORGIVE-NESS—
JUST LIKE HOW KOTORI IS CHASING AFTER GOTOUDA
EACH AND EVERY DAY,
SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING WHERE AND WHAT I AM DOING OR PROBABLY THINKING THAT I AM LIVING MY LIFE HAPPILY WITHOUT ANY REGRETS .
BUT THAT GIRL IS SURELY THINKING OF ME, THE ONE WHO KILLED HER SISTER.
CONTINUING TO LOOK FOR MY WHEREABOUTS. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
AND SO, HE PRETENDED TO BE GOTOUDA.
MURASE-KUN SAID 'IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR KOTORI-CHAN IF THE OBJECT OF HER HATRED IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER'

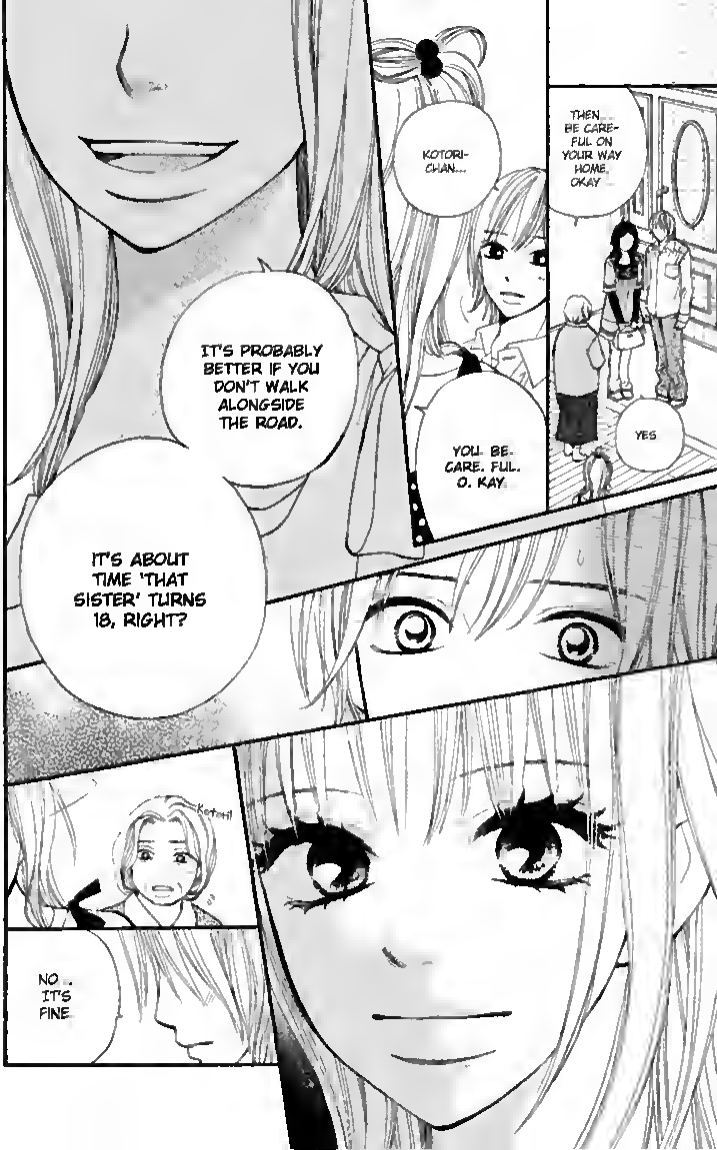
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
I TOOK SOMEONE'S LIFE I NEEDED TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
FOUR YEARS AGO,
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY.
IT'S OKAY TO DIE AFTER BEING STABBED BY ME, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ONE ANOTHER?
HONESTLY... EVEN NOW, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE ON HOW TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
BUT IF I WAS ABLE TO HELP SOMEBODY WITH THE SAME SITUATION, SOMEONE LIKE KOTORI, WHO HAD AN IMPORTANT PERSON TAKEN AWAY FROM HER AND WHO CONTINUES TO HURT INSIDE UNTIL NOW .
IF MY LIFE CAN SOMEHOW BECOME USEFUL...
That's why
MURASE-SAN, YOU ARE SO FULL OF YOURSELF.

IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY.
THIS ISN'T ATONEMENT!
YOU KEEP AGONIZING OVER YOUR PAST WHICH YOU CAN'T CHANGE,
AND YOU DECIDED BY YOURSELF THAT THE GIRL AND I ARE THE SAME!
YOU JUST WANTED TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR OWN LIFE.
THAT'S ENOUGH! WASN'T IT YOU WHO DROVE HIM INTO THE CORNER?

YOU'RE MAKING THAT KIND OF FACE
AND GOING ON AND ON AND ON ABOUT GOTOUDA!
Himeno
IN THE END, MURASE-KUN WAS ALMOST STABBED TO DEATH EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?!
THE PERSON IMPORTANT TO ME,
AND EVEN THIS CHILD'S LIFE WERE YOU ALSO GOING TO DRAG THEM DOWN TO THE BOTTOM TOO?!
MURASE-KUN HAS ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH!
RIGHT NOW, HE'S TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR THE REGRETS THAT HE HAS.
ALL HIS APOLOGIES WEREN'T LIES..

HIMENO-CHAN,
PLEASE SIT DOWN.
You're in a delicate position.
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE BIRTH?
YES.
MURASE... YOU?

I'D WANT TO BECOME A FATHER.
IF YOU CAN FORGIVE ME—
...
DO YOUR BEST.
Y-YES—
Wh, What the hell?!
This is stupid!
Are you saying I should sympathize with them?
For the sake of that guy who I don't have anything to do with...
Why should I be the one who gets rejected?


THEN... BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME, OKAY...
YES
KOTORI-CHAN...
YOU. BE-CARE. FUL. O. KAY.
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF YOU DON'T WALK ALONGSIDE THE ROAD.
IT'S ABOUT TIME 'THAT SISTER' TURNS 18, RIGHT?
Kotori!
NO. IT'S FINE.

...
EH?
PLEASE COME BACK AGAIN.
ABOUT THAT FAMILY FROM BEFORE...
DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM TOO MUCH.
JUST RELAX AND DON'T OVERDO IT
THE VICTIM'S FAMILY ISN'T NECESSARILY
CONFINED ON CONTINUALLY WISHING FOR YOUR UNHAPPINESS OR DEATH
THAT'S WHAT I THINK, ANYWAY
...
KOTORI-CHAN.
SORRY.

3 YEARS AGO, TO LOSE A DEAR FRIEND, WHO I WAS ALWAYS WITH, IN THAT WAY... IT WAS REALLY SAD.

WHENEVER I TURN MY BACK, IT ALMOST FEELS AS IF DEATH IS HOVERING OVER ME.

IN THE END, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...

KOTORI-CHAN, UNTIL WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THINK-ING LIKE THIS?

THEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY 'WELCOME HOME'— MY DAD, MY MOM, EVEN BOTH OF MY SISTERS.

WHENEVER I ARRIVE HOME

BUT THEN, AFTER NOBARA'S FUNERAL,

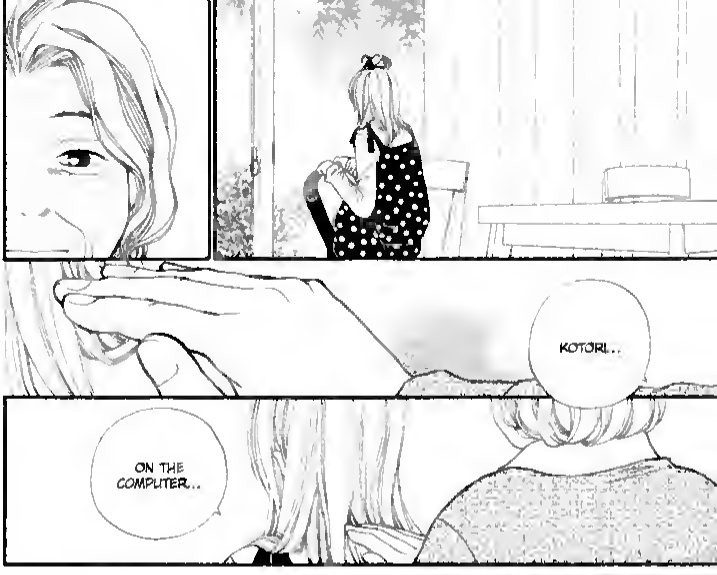
I'M HAPPY TO BE WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW.

AND I CAME TO THIS

FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, TIME PASSED BY...

SAY, HIMENO-CHAN
...
JUST FOR LAUGHS, BETWEEN GOTOUDA WHO KILLED BY STRANGLING
AND YOUR BOYFRIEND WHO KILLED SOMEONE IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT,
WHICH DO YOU THINK DID A HEAVIER CRIME?
...
IF MURASE-KUN WAS REALLY GOTOUDA
I WOULD FORGIVE HIM.

IF HE JUST TELLS ME THE TRUTH AND TRIES HIS BEST TO MAKE UP FOR IT...
EVEN IF THIS IS GOTOUDA'S CHILD, I PROBABLY WILL STILL GIVE BIRTH TO IT.


KOTORI...
ON THE COMPUTER...

EH?
WHEN I LOOK UP 'MURDER CASE OF SUZUKI NOBARA' OR MAYBE 'THE SUSPECT GOTOUDA MANABU',
NO MATTER HOW MANY THOUSAND PAGES, I STILL LOOK AT THEM
BECAUSE, IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE, RIGHT?
Even so, the person I considered to be my best friend had already...

SAY... RIGHT NOW, WHAT IF GOTOUDA,
LIKE MURASE-SAN, COMES APOLOGIZING — WITH TEARS STREAMING DOWN HIS FACE AND KNEELING DOWN IN FRONT OF US?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FORGIVE HIM, GRANDMA?
Even our grand-mother...
would also change her mind?
EVEN THOUGH, IT'S BEEN ONLY 3 YEARS SINCE...
Am I evil for not being able to forgive even after such a long time?

No matter what I see, no matter who I meet...

I say nothing but bullshit, worthless and horrible things.

Even to people that didn't have anything to do with me.

Am I just planting my own unhappiness with my actions?

It wasn't supposed to be like that.

I don't want to be that kind of person!

HUH? HERE? THAT'S RIGHT, IT USED TO BE A PARK
NOT ENTER KEEP OUT
DO NOT ENTER
EH? WHAT INCI-DENT?
OH. YOU DON'T KNOW?
EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS WHERE THAT INCIDENT HAPPENED
HMM... THAT'S RIGHT. SO THEY'RE GOING TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING RIGHT HERE.
WELL, IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE THEN.
IT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE TALK OF THE TOWN DURING THAT TIME
A GIRL WAS MURDERED AMONG THOSE GROVE OF TREES, RIGHT THERE.
HER NAME WAS... WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?

Today, I dreamt about Kotoru.
NOBARAAA.
I see, this is ..
FASTER, NOBARA!

*T/N: Geta - a form of traditional Japanese footwear that resembles clogs and flip flops.

This is the continuation of that day
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BUT IT HURTS WHEN I WEAR GETA*
AHH, YOU'RE GETTING IT DIRTY
I knew I was only dreaming but I just stayed like that, never opening my eyes
I just kept on dreaming about Kotaro.

Give us back
the future that we were supposed to have.

Not even his execution...
What I want aren't Gotouda's apologies.
That is my only prayer for now.
I just want to go back to that day one more time.

Kotori...
I want to see Kotori.

To be continued in
Inochi Vol 4!!

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